Trails of Cheap and Deadly Contracaptives in on Women

3262. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Cheap but deadly contracaptives is on trial" appearing in the Sunday Times of India, dated March 16, 1997;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government have taken any action to halt these trials and conduct follow-up studies on women who have been sterilised by the quinacrine; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) Indian Council of Medical Research had initiated Clinical Trials with Quinacrine Pellets since 1992 and a total of eight cases were enrolled at two Centres but because of unsatisfactory results these Clinical Trials were discontinued in September 1994. Since then no clinical trials with Quinacrine Pellets has been authorised by Drug Controller General of India.

No specific case has come to the notice of the Govt. concerning use of Quina-
crine for contraception or trial in regard to it.

Handing over the Building in 'C' Block Janakpuri, New Delhi for Poly-Clinic under CGHS

3263. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1113 given in the Rajya Sabha on 30th March, 1997 and state:

(a) whether his Ministry has made enquiries with the CPWD with regard to the delay in handing over the building in 'C' Block, Janakpuri, New Delhi, where a poly-clinic under CGHS is proposed to be opened;

(b) what was the originally stipulated time for the completion and handing over of the building;

(c) what are the reasons on the part of CPWD for delaying the handing over of the building to the CGHS; and

(d) what is the present position with regard to the handing over of the building on the likely date of the starting of the clinic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSITCE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) to (d) Normally, CPWD takes 2-3 years to complete a building. On the completion of the same it applies to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi for issue of a completion certificate. After receipt of the completion certificate, the possession of the building is handed over to the concerned agency.

The CPWD has applied to MCD on 19-3-97 for issue of completion certificate. On receipt of the certificate the possession of the building will be handed over by the CPWD to the CGHS authorities.

Utilisation of World Bank Aid for AIDS

3264. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:
SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:
SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE:
SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a considerable part of the World Bank aid for the National AIDS programme has been lying unutilised;

(b) if so, the details of the funds sanctioned by the World Bank so far for various AIDS programmes and the amount utilised so far;

(c) whether it is a fact that the funds allocated to the said programme have been diverted by certain State Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what steps are being taken to see that the funds sanctioned for AIDS programmes are utilised effectively only for the purpose only?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) and (b) An agreement between Government of India and International Development Agency was signed in September, 1992 and a credit of US Dollar 84 million (Rs. 222.6 crores) was committed for implementing the scheme aimed at Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS in India. The IDA credit is provided as disbursement of approximately 84% of expenditure incurred under the programme. The total expenditure as on 31.3.97 is Rs. 275.22 crores. However since the US Dollar has appreciated against INR the disbursement so far received is US Dollar 46.27 million.

(c) and (d) The funds alloted for the implementation of the scheme to the States/UTs are non-divertible.

(e) Funds are released to the State AIDS Cells on the basis of action plans submitted by them for prevention and control of HIV/AIDS. The effective utilisation of funds is ensured by insisting adherance to the implementation of the programme as per scheme approved by National AIDS Control Organisation. Implementation is monitored by Health Departments of the concerned State Governments as well as by the National AIDS Control Organisation. The expenditure incurred by the States/UTs is audited by the Comptroller and Audit or General of India.

Damage Caused by free Radical Oxygen Molecules to Human Body

3265. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the latest research in free Radical Oxygen Molecules causing cell damage in the human body;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith remedy;

(c) in what way Government come to know about 'anti-oxidants'; and

(d) what steps are being taken to educate the public about free radical damage and the anti-oxidant preventive treatment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir, There is considerable research interest both in India and abroad, on free radical oxygen molecules generated in the body during physiological and pathological processes resulting in cell damage, ageing and various diseases such as cancer, cataract, diabetes mellitus, heart diseases, lever toxicity, etc.

Nutrient supply in the diet such as Vitamins A, C, E and Selenium and non-nutrient components such as phytochemicals are effective in protecting the body against free radical damage. These are called antioxidants. Several antioxidant fomulations are also marketed in the country by certain pharmaceutical industries.

(d) Consumption of plenty of yellow and green vegetables and fruits containing antioxident nutrients' such as Vitamin E, beta carotene and Vitamin C etc. is encouraged as part of the nutrition Education Programme.